



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013

No. 7

## Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, January 3, 2013)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O thou beginner of our yesterdays, mystery of our today, and the hope of our tomorrows, Lord, we sometimes take Your mercies for granted. Forgive us when we forget to be thankful for Your presence in our Nation and world.

Thank You for the inauguration of our President and for this new chapter in our Nation's history. Bless President Barack Obama. May the last words of King David of Israel characterize the leadership and legacy of his Presidency: "Those who rule over people must be just, ruling with Godly reverence. And they shall be as the light of the morning without clouds, as the tender grass springing out of the Earth by clear shining after rain."

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, if any, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 today. During that period of time, Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. We will be in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

### WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today, with the inspiration of the second inauguration of President Obama fresh in our minds, we renew our efforts to fulfill the promise of prosperity for every American.

The theme of yesterday's inauguration was "Faith in America's Future." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth and life we also celebrated Monday, once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." I have faith that the Members of the 113th Congress will bring this Nation closer to realizing the promise of prosperity. The last Congress was too often characterized by sharp political divides—divides that hampered efforts to foster success for all Americans. I am hopeful and cautiously optimistic that the 113th Congress will be characterized not by our divisions but by our renewed commitment to cooperation and compromise. I urge every woman and every man fortunate enough to serve in this Chamber to remember that it is possible to hold fast to our principles while making the compromises necessary to move our country forward.

Democrats will hold fast to the guiding principle that a strong middle class—and an opportunity for every American to enter that middle class—is the key to this Nation's success. Democrats will stand strong—strong for the standard of balance. We will remain resolute—resolute in the pursuit

of fairness for all Americans, regardless of where they were born or the color of their skin, regardless of the size of their bank accounts, regardless of their religion or sexual orientation.

Those principles will direct our course as we introduce our first 10 bills today—a tradition we have had in the Senate, which is that the majority party introduces the first 10 bills—as we mend our broken immigration system, strengthen our schools, and rebuild our roads and bridges, and we will look to those principles as we bring forth other measures included in those 10 bills. Those principles will be foremost in our minds as we balance the right to bear arms with the right for every child to grow up safe from gun violence. Those principles will be our North Star as we work to end wasteful tax loopholes and balance thoughtful spending reductions with revenue from the wealthiest among us. And those principles will point the way as we work to ensure that this country's uniformed servicemembers never struggle to find employment when their military duties end. Through every struggle and every triumph, those principles must be our guide.

Not a single piece of important legislation can pass the Senate or become law without the votes of both Democrats and Republicans, so we will be willing to compromise and work with our colleagues across the aisle. Unfortunately, a number of bipartisan bills passed the Senate during the last Congress that were never acted upon by the House of Representatives. So this year the Senate will revisit some of those legislative priorities that passed on a bipartisan basis here.

We will again take up the Violence Against Women Act. This is an important piece of legislation that is expiring. We will take up the farm bill, which is a revolutionary piece of legislation that would save the country up

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S25